(b) and (c) There is a SGC office in Rajasthan located at Jaipur. However, on the recommendations of Expenditure Reform Commission (ERC), all the Save Grain Campaign offices including Jaipur are being closed.

(d) The number of farmers trained under the SGC in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise, are as under:—

Sl. No.	Item of Work	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto December, 2007)
1.	Number of farmers trained in Stipendiary Training Courses	1850	1400	1050
2.	Number of farmers trained in non-Stipendiary Training Courses	2031	1526	1300
	TOTAL	3881	2926	2350

Delayed production of sugar

†1591. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of sugar in several States has been delayed by sugar mills despite the commencement of crushing season in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these States and whether this is also a reason for decrease in sugar production in the country during sugar crushing year 2007-08;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government therefor and whether sugarcane growers have also suffered loss due to delay in starting crushing of sugarcane; and

(d) if so, the estimate of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The late crushing of sugarcane by sugar factories is reported to have taken place in the States of Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the current sugar season 2007-08. The sugar production in the country during the current sugar season may decline by about 15 lac tonnes over the last sugar season. One of the factors for decline in sugar production can be late starting of crushing operations by sugar factories.

Foodgrains stock for PDS

1592. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether country would experience a tight position in foodgrains stock in the Central Pool for the public distribution system by April, 2009; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† *Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Because of lower procurement of wheat and rice than their requirement under TPDS, welfare schemes and for calamity relief etc., the buffer stock of wheat and rice available in the Central Pool on 01.01.2008 has been less than the minimum buffer norms. Therefore, available stocks for allocation to APL category during 2008-09 are less, although for the accepted numbers of BPL and AAY families under the TPDS, the stocks likely to become available in the Central Pool would enable full allocation @ 35 kg/per family/per month.

Allocation of rice to Kerala

1593. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced the quantity of rice allocated to Kerala, through public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for enhancing the rice allocation to Kerala; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A uniform decision to rationalize rice allocation from the Central Pool stocks for the APL category under the Targeted Public Distribution System has been implemented *w.e.f* April 2007 on the basis of a particular State's maximum monthly offtake during last three years *i.e* 2003-04; 2004-05 and 2005-06. This has been made applicable to all States, including Kerala.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has made an *adhoc*/additional/festival of allocation of 51,000 MT of rice and 83,778 MT of wheat to State of Kerala during the current year in addition to normal allocations made under the TPDS.

Irregularities in supply of ration

†1594. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding irregularities in the supply of ration especially in supply of wheat and rice given to BPL in the different States of the country including Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investigation has been conducted against the guilty officers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.